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Proudly representing Eastern Washington in the United States House of Representatives

INSIDE CONGRESS
FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 22, 2002
by United States Representative
George R. Nethercutt, Jr.

Welcome to this week's edition of Inside Congress. I am glad to share with you a little of my work in the national legislature. Please follow the listed links or contact my office for more information on the topics mentioned here.

LEGISLATION

This week I became a cosponsor of **H.R. 3412** introduced by Rep. John Hostettler of Indiana. The bill would give service members stationed in Korea the same tax status as those stationed in other "combat zones" such as Bosnia, Croatia, or Macedonia. This legislation has an allowance for enlisted personnel to exclude 100 percent of the pay earned while stationed in Korea. Officers could exclude an amount up to maximum enlisted deduction. The bill would recognize the sacrifices of service personnel serving at one of our more remote and difficult posts. This is one small step toward retaining the personnel who serve this country faithfully and whom we hope will continue to serve their country.

In addition, I became an original cosponsor of H.R. 3782, the **Clean, Learn, Educate, Abolish, Neutralize, and Undermine Production (CLEAN-UP) of Methamphetamines Act of 2002**, introduced by Rep. Doug Ose of California. The legislation would authorize \$125 million across multiple departments (Agriculture, Interior, Health and Human Services, Justice, and Labor) to offer grants, increase training and education, and provide law enforcement with additional resources. The proliferation of methamphetamine is one of the most challenging issues facing Washington State. It is intricately tied to crime, community degradation, child neglect, and the current economic situation can promote both its use and production. This bill seeks to provide additional resources to communities that will be integral in locally based solutions.

ON THE FLOOR

The House of Representatives is in recess until Feb. 26 for the President's Day District Work Period.

SCHEDULE

Kris Worley from the American Diabetes Association paid me visit at my Spokane office. I spoke to a class and met Gates Scholar students at West Valley High School. Kent Adams and Fred Brown of the Fairchild Museum came to see me at my Valley office. I had lunch with the Spokane Valley Rotary and later discussed economic development issues with Liberty Lake Mayor Steve Peterson at City Hall. I met with the National Guard and representatives of the Emergency Response community regarding funding for the Readiness Training Center. I met with doctors from Rockwood Clinic who discussed Medicare issues with me.

I spoke to students at Ritzville High School and spoke with farmers at a seed growers meeting in Ritzville. I spoke to the Ritzville Chamber of Commerce at their lunch meeting and then had a chance to meet with many community leaders in Adams County at a meeting of my Adams County Advisory Group. I was able to visit with Father Spitzer of Gonzaga University before speaking to the Gonzaga students, staff and faculty at a forum on environmental terrorism sponsored by the GU College Republicans.

Chris Culbertson of Colby Greenhouse, Paul and Julie Schultz of Blumengarten Greenhouse, and Alan Creach of Creach Greenhouse met with me regarding trade issues. I met with Tom Fritz of INHS and Dr. Bill Gray of WSU regarding medical research. I participated in a press conference with WSU's Small Business Center and NASA to tout technology we worked together to get transferred for Spokane doctor Don Baker to use in developing the first portable fetal heart rate monitor.

I met with the Northeast Association of School Administrators at their monthly meeting. I spoke with United Airlines employees Joe Reed, Frances Lucas, D.R. Kraues, and Robert Danatky about their labor concerns. I toured Linesoft and met with Fred Brown and Randy Long about an INTEC energy proposal. I had the privilege of speaking and handing out awards at the Spokane Police Department Awards Ceremony.

I met with the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery board of directors. I met with David Saulibio and Ben Cabildo about DAS electronics. Dorothy Dentler, Nancy Vorhees and Christi Querna came to see me about the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. I had the opportunity to meet with WSU President Lane Rawlins. I toured the Spokane Veterans Administration Medical Center with Joe Manley. Ramon Ortega of the U.S. Border Patrol met with me at my office. I delivered the keynote address at the opening of WSU's new Health Sciences building, located at their Riverpoint campus.

I met with veterans in Republic and was a speaker at a dinner there. I will be in Pomeroy, Omak, Pullman, Dayton, and Olympia between now and Monday and will take a red-eye flight from Seattle Monday night to be ready for meetings on Tuesday in Washington, D.C.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

I always enjoy hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in any matter. Here are some of the ways you may reach me, especially if you know of others who may want to receive this report each week:

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